

REMARKS

The Office Action presents a restriction requirement, requesting restriction to one of the following inventions: Group I, Claims 1-15 and 23-26, drawn to a metal screen and method of manufacture; Group II, Claims 16-17, 22 and 27, drawn to a method of manufacturing an assembly by shrinking the screen onto a support system; Group III, Claims 18-20 and 28, drawn to a method of arranging a deformed support screen in a perforated screen and restoring the original shape of the support screen; and Group IV, Claims 21 and 29, drawn to a method of pushing a perforated screen over a support screen with the aid of pressurized fluid.

Applicants provisionally elect Group I, Claims 1-15 and 23-26 with traverse. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the restriction requirement in view of the following comments.

Applicants have amended independent claims 16, 18, and 21 to include the technical feature of Group I noted in the Office Action, namely a metal screen material having a flat side, comprising a network of dykes where are connected to one another by crossing points, which dykes delimit openings, the thickness of the crossing points not being equal to the thickness of the dykes only on the side of the screen material opposite the flat side. Applicants have also canceled claims 22 and 27-29. Thus, the claims of Groups II, III and IV now all include the technical feature of Group I noted in the restriction requirement that was previously lacking, for example, from Groups II and III thereby supporting the restriction requirement. Accordingly Applicants respectfully submit that the claims, as amended, now all relate to a single general inventive concept, thus traversing the restriction requirement.

Additionally, claim 8 is amended to remove a potential ambiguity in line 3 concerning the phrase "in particular according to one of the preceding claims". Claims 23, 25 and 26 are amended to address the comment in the restriction requirement concerning "method of use" type claims and to render these claims definite. Lastly, claim 22 is canceled as suggested on page 3 of the restriction requirement.

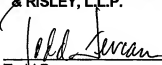
Applicants believe no fee is due. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to credit any overpayment and charge any additional fees due to Deposit Account 20-0779.

CONCLUSION

In light of the foregoing remarks set forth above, Applicants respectfully submit that the present application is in condition for allowance and as such, favorable allowance of the present application is hereby courteously requested. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephone conference would expedite the examination of this matter, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at (770) 933-9500.

Respectfully Submitted,
**THOMAS, KAYDEN, HORSTEMEYER
& RISLEY, L.L.P.**

By: _____


Todd Deveau
Registration No. 29,526

600 Galleria Parkway, S.E., Suite 1500
Atlanta, Georgia 30339
770-933-9500